Mr. William Neichter
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2/13/93

Dear Bill,

Thanks for your letter of the 8th and the enclosures from the Cooper Archive. I'm very glad to get the copies and I'll soon be reading them. I skimmed them when they came yesterday. I also hope I can concentrate on them because this is a very disconcerting time for me and in addition I'm enormously embarrassed for causing extra work for Wrone, who is retyping the ms. I failed to have covering letters with three chapters so he could by their dates keep them in the proper sequence and they now are not. In addition, I'm on the first of 2 1/2 days of a liquid diet, jello and a little plain white bread being exceptions. Plus a baked chicken breast which will be a feast for supper. Monday I have some barium X-rays of the intestines instead of the usual check for polyps because the usual one not only poses some hazard for me, slight but possible, it also means I'd have to be off the anticoagulent without which I have thrmoboses. After the results of that there will be a Sygmascope (?) and with some internal bleeding detected I hope no more than a later polyp removal.

Mrs. Mark Martin soon wasn't. Shirley Martin was a very warm bringht and imaginative woman. (I do not meant to suggest she si not still alive. I don't know.) She was very active early on, flipped over Garrison and did what some of us thought rather odd. She had a daughter who was engaged. I think she had five children. The daughter got killed in an auto accident. She left, probably divorced, her husband and married her daughter's intended to try and make up as best she could for his loss. And then I lost track of her and did not hear from her again.

On Weird Beard saying Ruby had been manipulated, I do not think that is not possible and I've often thought it.But there is no proof of it, alas. I think he was very subject to suggestion and could have had the idea he'd be a hero.

We do look forwrd to your coming in April. And how we envy your trip to Hawaii. Or for that matter to anywhere. I do only what travelling is necessary because a slight bruise or bump to others can be serious for me. I've not driven out of Frederick for nineteen years and with a very few exceptions, like once representing myself in court when a conflict of interest was contrived between my lawyer and me and to see my mother, I have been except to medical appointments and to hospitals. (mother took it to 92)

I was confused about Cumberland. Is the mountain where the gap is?

I've ignored all that Stone puffed himself and his movie with like the Kopple show, of which I'd known, believing all that a waste of time. What people like Lemmon say has no real meaning and I'm sure Kopple knew nothing about the fact of the assassination when she finished it up.

Mary Ferrell is a fine lady of the far right. I've never gotten any records or information from her that I recall. She spent a week here in about 1968 and I was their guest

for about a week in about 1971. She and her husband Buck were both wonderful to me then. In recent years I've heard from her only rarely and now she has the additional problem of increasing years, from several serious accidents and from a husband who has lingered long in terminal illness. Right now she is one of the victims of a vicious campaign from a critic who is and for some time has been in an irrational State. He only these week wrote me a number of additional threats and demands. He letter was not in contact with reality and I ignored it but I did send a confidential copy to a woman who is looking out for Mary's interest because of the rotten things he said about her to me. Fortunately, he is not next door. Unfortunately, he is as close as Baltimore. But he has Mary cast in the role of a conspirator (I am reasonable sure he has ~~with~~ me, too) and he has distressed her with his vile invective and inherent threats.

I don't know about Hoffman. I've never done any work on him and his wife. I have the FBI's records and in general know what the others say about him.

On my books in the libraries, I've not kept track but I do know that the LBJ library got some if not all. I do not know of any Member's archive getting them.

Thanks for telling the Lexington bookstore about me. What little time I spent there was nice. Especially juleps for a quarter! In the hotel and at a place called The Canary Club. When I was the rum-runner for the official party in the Harlan prosecution I drove an armored 1933 from London to Lexington weekly for our booze. Once or twice it was to Jellico, TN.

If I do not remember incorrectly, years ago the Daytona races were on the magnificent beach. I drove on it in 1935 in a 1931 Ford with a rumble seat. What a fine investion the rumble seat was, especially for young people! Mine was a 1929 Ford and from time to time on a double date I'd get the friend to drive so I could use the rumble seat. Especially in the summertime in those pre-air conditioning days.

Nice press release, thanks, but the papers would not carry it. I hope the university paper did so students can know.

On the Ruby psychiatric records, Henry Wade became and remains a friend. When Ruby was free and could do as he wanted he was sick in the head. I saw the SPCA's letter to Wade in which they expressed the belief that he was treating his dacshund ~~Shb~~ Sheba as he referred to her, as his wife. And other derrogatory information not quite as sick.

I'm glad to get the ChiTrib story on the Mailer expedition. The story does not reflect what with any ability Mailer should develop, that Oswald was anti-USSR in the USSR. ~~It~~ It is correct on his hunting trips. The KGB learned that he never shot anything and that the others gave him some of their game to take home. If anything good comes of Mailer's trip or book it will be his first good on the assassination.

Interesting that Cooper leaked to the FBI, a memo, a chapter draft and a hearing transcript.

B

I knew Bob Allen slightly before he quit the Drew Pearson column for his military career in World War II. He was pretty far right after the war.

Imagine Cooper having to beg for transcripts of testimony to be published! Rankin went on what seemed like an economy binge but it was really a means of control. He also could have had all the testimony set in type and had galley proofs for use. I did it.

What does interest me is the Nosenko memo. Because I'm keeping these things from the Cooper archive as I get them and in a separate, identified file I've made a copy of the N. memo to read with care later. He interests me much. I'll tell you when you are here. There should have been other Nosenko memos and perhaps some on Mr. X, which then used to refer to him in the Report. I'd be very interested if you can get the others. Some were finally released. I don't know if this one was until I read it. There is no longer any classification on Nosenko records. The CIA went public and sent a representative to testify to the House assassins committee about him. N. also testified to it but not in public to protect him from retribution.

I have to stop now to get the mail. We had some snow but it has thawed enough for me to drive to the mailbox for it. I've not gone because I've been expecting a student who would have gotten it for me but at 2 p.m. when I retire early I do not want the mail to stack up on me.

There should be very much more that Cooper left relating to the Commission and the assassination and what kind of politician would he have been not to have had a file of criticisms of the Commission and its work?

While I have no idea how useful it would be there has to have been more by way on internal communications and of things given to the Members to go over and be able to discuss and decide on.

Nosenko was a lively subject because he was a KGB defector and they deliberated accepting his offer to testify but not in public. The CIA and Ford in particular talked them out of ever listening to him. Of course, they were the ones to decide whether what he said was credible but they did not talk to him.

Many thanks and best to you both,

Harold

Harold Weisberg